WEST VIRGINIA

ANNUAL PEST CONDITIONS REPORT
to
UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

1973

Hardwood Defoliators

Red-humped Oakworm, Symmerista canicosta and Orange-humped Mapleworm, Symmerista leucitys.

Numerous specimens of both were collected or submitted to the Laboratory. The orange-humped mapleworm caused partial defoliation to 1,000 acres of hardwoods in Randolph County. It is thought the red-humped oakworm may occur there, but no specimens were collected. Both species seem to be increasing in the State. Defoliation is expected to occur in Randolph County in 1974.

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Variable Oak Leaf Caterpillar, Heterocampa manteo.

There were two areas defoliated in the State in 1972. However, these areas have not increased in 1973 and no defoliation is expected in 1974. The insect seems to be frequent throughout the State but no large areas affected.

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Saddled Prominent, Heterocampa guttivitta.

Occasional specimens were collected and no areas were defoliated. This insect does not seem to be a problem in West Virginia yet.

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Oak Leaf Tier Complex, Croesia albicomna, and others Archips sp.

Defoliation ranged from light to moderate over 200,000 acres in Pocahontas and Greenbrier Counties. This insect has been a problem in West Virginia since about 1964. Egg sampling surveys have not been completed and no prediction for 1974 can be made.

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Fall Cankerworm, Alsophila pometaria.

This insect caused complete defoliation to 823 acres of hardwoods in Grant County. An additional 1400 acres were 50% defoliated. No predictions on 1974 outlook until egg sampling is completed in January.

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Forest Tent Caterpillar, Malacosoma disstria.

Black light trap collections indicate two areas in the State may have defoliation in 1974. No areas were defoliated this year. The insect is frequent but not abundant throughout the State.

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Eastern Tent Caterpillar, Malacosoma americana.

A complete collapse of populations was noted throughout the State this year. Few nests will probably be observed in 1974.

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Cherry Scallop Shell Moth, Calocalpe undulata.

This insect is abundant in West Virginia, and defoliation occurred on approximately 500 acres of scattered Black Cherry.

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Fall Webworm, Hyphantria cunea.

This insect is abundant in West Virginia. Complete defoliation occurred to approximately 500 acres in West Virginia. This insect appears to be on the increase and defoliation is expected to occur in 1974.

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Locust Leaf Miner, Odontota dorsalis.

Heavy defoliation occurred throughout southern and western parts of West Virginia. The only areas free of attack were the North Central and Eastern sections of the State.

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Mountain Ash Sawfly, Pristiphora geniculata.

Complete defoliation occurred to Mountain Ash in the higher elevations of West Virginia.

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Orange-striped Oakworm, Anisota senatoria.

Numerous specimens were collected and submitted from all areas of the State. Complete defoliation to scattered oaks occurred throughout the State.

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Green-striped Mapleworm, Anisota rubicunda.

This insect was abundant throughout the State and sparse defoliation occurred in many areas of the State.

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Gypsy Moth, Porthetria dispar

No eggs, pupae or larvae have been found in West Virginia. However, three additional males were caught this year bringing the total of males caught in 1972-1973 to seventeen, two of the three males caught were new county records. This makes a total of seven counties with male moth catches.

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Walkingstick, Diapheromera femorata.

Numerous walkingsticks caused 80-100% defoliation to ten acres of Black Locust in Mineral County. Apparently other areas of the State had small infestations and are being checked out.

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Datana Caterpillars, Datana sp.

These insects were abundant throughout the State and complete defoliation occurred to hardwoods and shrubs in localized areas throughout the State.

Conifer Defoliators

Red-headed Pine Sawfly, Neodiprion lecontei

Occasional specimens were found this year. Several trees were completely defoliated but no large areas of infestations were noted.

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Virginia Pine Sawfly, Neodiprion pratti pratti

Not a problem in West Virginia this year. There are a few areas with moderate defoliation. Will probably be much worse in 1974.

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Bagworm, Thridopteryx ephemeraeformis.

This insect is on the increase in West Virginia. More calls have been about this insect than any other.

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Southern Pine Beetle, Dendroctonus frontalis.

This insect appears to be on the increase in West Virginia. It has caused the loss of many residential plantings of pitch pine.